

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please add the following new paragraph after line 15:

FIG. 5 is a schematic illustration of a shunt device in accordance with yet another embodiment of the present invention.

Please replace the paragraph at page 11, lines 4-13 with the following amended paragraph:

Under the general formula above, the displacement of the blocking element 60 is proportional to the displacement of the biasing element 58. Because the threshold pressure comprises the reference pressure and the biasing force from the biasing elements 58, the opening pressure of the valve mechanism 50 can be programmed by adjusting the biasing force of the biasing element 58. That is, it is possible to adjust the threshold pressure of the valve mechanism 50 by providing a programmable biasing element 58 having a spring preload controllable by the operator. As shown in FIG. 5, the ~~The~~ biasing element 58' can be a programmable spring mechanism or a spring mechanism having a fixed bias force, as is well known to one of ordinary skill in the art, and the spring mechanism ~~—The biasing element 58~~ itself can consist of a leaf spring, a coiled spring, or a helical spring.